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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,989	KERNAN ET AL.	
	Examiner George P. Wyszomierski	Art Unit 1742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment and Disclaimers filed 2/13/07.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-43.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

a) This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 44-53 directed to an invention non-elected without traverse in the reply filed on July 24, 2006.

Accordingly:

Claims 44-53 have been canceled.

b) The proposed revision to paragraph [0098] in the amendment filed February 13, 2007 has not been entered because the amended text did not include markings to show the changes made. The following text incorporates the proposed changes to paragraph [0098]. Rewrite paragraph [0098] of the specification as follows:

[0098] Thus, in the skeleton, concentration of each non-MPD element in the off tie-line style can vary continuously and independent of the other non-MPD elements within the range between $M_{n,T}$ (when $R_n = 0$) and $M_{n,S}$ (when $R_n = 1$). When for each non-MPD element $R_n=0$, then the skeleton composition is identical to the basic method, and the infiltrant composition will also be the same as the basic method infiltrant. When for each non MPD element, $R_n=1$, then the skeleton composition is identical to the near tie-line method, and the infiltrant composition will also be the same as the near tie-line infiltrant.

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2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

a) The terminal disclaimers filed on February 13, 2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patents 6,719,948 and 7,060,222 have been reviewed and are accepted. The terminal disclaimers have been recorded.

b) The examiner accepts Applicant's explanation that the various modes recited in claims 14-16 are sufficiently defined in the specification that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning of the claims. Further, the examiner accepts Applicant's explanation that the various steel compositions recited in claims 18 and 20-29 are both in reference to ASTM standards and are set forth in various tables in the specification as filed.

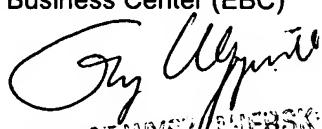
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Wyszomierski whose telephone number is (571) 272-1252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King, can be reached on (571) 272-1244. All patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, (571)-273-8300. This Central FAX Number is the result of relocating the Central FAX server to the Office's Alexandria, Virginia campus.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GPW
April 5, 2007


GEORGE WYSZOMIERSKI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1700